(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Following table gives the data on production of foodgrains in the country during the last five years:

(Million Tonnes)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Foodgrains Production	174.77	213.19	198.36	208.60	216.13

*As per 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

Foodgrains production shows an increasing trend. Year 2002-03 was a drought year, while the monsoon rainfall in 2004-05 was 13% less than its Long Period Average which adversely affected the foodgrains production.

(b) As per the projections given by the office of the Registrar General of India, population of India stood at 1062.39 millions as on 1st March 2003 and at 1128.52 millions as on 1st March 2007 showing an increase of 6.2% in population as compared to an increase of 23.7% in foodgrains production during this period. Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem whose important determinants are high rate of population growth, inadequate food and levels of poverty and income distribution.

(c) and (d) To increase agricultural production, Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* Integrated Cereals Development Programmes (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals are in place from October 2000. To increase the productivity of pulses and maize Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004. The Government of India has recently approved two schemes viz. (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector which, in turn, is envisaged to improve the over all growth of the sector.

Besides, Government is addressing the problem of malnutrition through national programme of nutritional support to primary education (Mid-day Meal Programme), nutrition programme for adolescent girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains, the targeted public distribution system (PDS) by making essential food items available at subsidized costs and also through several income generating schemes to improve the purchasing power.

Technology for small and marginal farmers

2628. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small and marginal farmers are largely constrained due to the absence of simple and low cost technologies suited to small plots which can be managed by them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present technologies are expensive and fit for use only in large fields of big farmers; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard to make available suitable technologies to small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Suitable technologies for small and marginal farmers have already been developed for seed bed preparation, sowing, interculture, earthing, spraying, harvesting, threshing, and cleaning equipment.

Recommendations of NCA

†2629. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Agriculture has submitted its report to Government recently;

(b) if so, the salient recommendations of the Commission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that inspite of a number of packages announced by Government, suicides by the farmers are still continuing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers submitted its final Report to the Government in October, 2006. The salient recommendations of the Commission included asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources, support services like science and technology, inputs and services, credit and insurance, assured and remunerative marketing, social security and curriculum reforms and other initiatives like special category farming, food security etc.

(c) and (d) Government approved a Rehabilitation Package involving an amount of Rs.16978.69 crore for 31 Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, reporting high number of suicides by farmers. Progress of implementation of rehabilitation package is being monitored and reviewed on a regular basis at District, State and Central level. Feed back received from some of the State Governments regarding implementation of package indicates that it has made positive impact on mitigating the distress of farmers covered by the Rehabilitation Package.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.